Rise in students, but drop in classes

BY KAILA WYMAN
Staff Writer

The university has cut about 7 percent — or 235 — of its undergraduate class sections in the last two years, although the number of undergraduate students at UA has grown by 7 percent in the same period. This year, there are 3,119 classes — 69 fewer than last year — offered to accommodate the 28,278 undergraduates currently enrolled.

While there are 2,020 more students here than there were four years ago, 257 classes have been cut over those years.

Budget cuts have left collegues no choice but to combine and cut classes in order to make cuts, said Rick Kroc, director of assessment and enrollment research.

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The state's budget deficit and resulting cuts to the UA have forced the university to cut courses.

Budget cuts last year cost the university almost $16.6 million — 4.8 percent of UA's annual operating cost of $343 million.

The institution's goal, Richardson said, is to make sure each student who wants a full schedule — at least 12 units — is able to receive one, and that each of those class sections apply to the student's major.

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Projecting sold out

Ben McCartney, a fourth year music performance doctoral student, plays guitar in a film installation project for the media arts introduction to film production class last night outside the Marroney Theatre. As McCartney performed, television monitors surrounding him displayed a live video-feed of audience members watching themselves watching him.

Coaches cost too much to axe

BY RYAN GABRIELSON
Staff Writer

Patience is not a virtue most college football programs have been showing their coaches in recent years, but it is something the UA's administrators and fans will likely have to muster with John Mackovic. The cost of firing Mackovic — which could result in forcing the elimination of jobs in the athletics department — could keep him in place regardless of whether Pete Lilikins and athletics director Jim Livengood believe the coach can turn Wildcat football into a winning program.

Mackovic has three years remaining on his contract, worth more than $800,000 a year in base salary. Under his contract, if fired, the coach would be entitled to half his salary for each of the remaining years, totaling about $1.2 million, which the UA would owe in addition to the cost of hiring a new coach.

"That'd be a huge concern," said Student Regent Matt Meaker, who has a vote on the board.

The larger changes include differentiating each university's missions to make the UA more research-oriented, ASU an educational power-house and NAU-a residential university.

The board of regents will begin discussing the possibility of allowing university presidents, deans and department heads to set their own, distinct tuition rates rather than conforming to one set tuition for the entire university system.

It is a good idea to amend the policy to allow for different tuitions because it allows the uni-